

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 /054 W  
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O R 061146Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1365

INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3783

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJ: PARLIAMENTARY VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

REF: BANGKOK 3690

SUMMARY? JUDGING FROM THE RHETORIC, PROSPECTS LOOKED DISMAL FOR THE DEMOCRAT- SOCIAL AGRARIAN COALITION CABINET DURING THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT MARCH 6. THE DAY BEGAN WITH A MORNING RADIO NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF THAILAND (SPT) AND THE SOCIALIST UNITED FRONT (SUF) WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE COALITION CABINET. THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE IS A GROWING ACCUMULATION OF NEGATIVE STATEMENTS AND APPEARS WELL ORGANIZED. AS OF 1900 HOURS LOCAL TIME MARCH 6, PARLIAMENT CONTINUES THE DEBATE AND HAS NOT VOTED, ALTHOUGH IT COULD DO SO THIS EVENING OR MARCH 7. THE OUTCOME IS UNCERTAIN. END SUMMARY.

1. MARCH 6 DAWNED TO THE RADIO NEWS REPORT THAT THE SPT AND SUF HAD HELD A MEETING MARCH 5 AT WHICH THEY DECIDED NOT TO SUPPORT THE DEMOCRAT-SOCIAL AGRARIAN COALITION CABINET. SPT  
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LEADER SOMKHIT SISANGKHOM ALSO GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO THIS SAME

EFFECT.

2. THE DEBATE ON THE DEMOCRAT-SOCIAL AGRARIAN POLICY STATEMENT APPEARED WELL REGULATED BECAUSE SEVERAL PARTY LEADERS SPOKE RATHER THAN THE BACKBENCHERS. KHUKRIT PRAMOT, LEADER OF THE SOCIAL ACTION PARTY, SAID HE WOULD VOTE FOR THE GOVERNMENT, BUT COMMENTED THAT HE SAW LITTLE TO RECOMMEND IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PLATFORM. KHUKRIT CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT SETTING SPECIFIC TIME-TABLES FOR ITS POLICIES. SOMKHIT SAID THAT THE POLICY'S ARTICLE ON FOREIGN TROOP WITHDRAWALS WAS THE ONLY THING HE AGREED WITH. PRAMAN ADIREKSAN, LEADER OF THE THAI NATION PARTY, CRITIZED THE DEMOCRATS ALONG THE LINES KHUKRIT TOOK.

3. MOST CRITICS TOOK A SHOTGUN APPROACH TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PLATFORM RATHER THAN SIGHTING IN ON A PARTICULAR SUBJECT. THE CRITICS HAD IT BOTH WAYS. SOMKHIT WANTED FOREIGN TROOPS OUT WITHIN SIX MONTHS, AND PRAMAN ASKED THE GOVERNMENT WHAT PLANS IT HAD FOR THE UNEMPLOYED. SOMKHIT ALSO MENTIONED THAT ALL FOREIGN TROOPS, NOT JUST THE AMERICANS, SHOULD VACATE THAILAND. SUF LEADER KHLAEO NORAPATI MENTIONED SOME OF THE OTHER ANTI-FOREIGN THEMES MUCH DISCUSSED THESE DAYS SUCH AS THE CIA AND THE DISPUTE OVER THE TEMCO CONCESSION. IN URGING A QUICKER WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS, KHLAEO ARGUED THAT THEY WERE OF NO UTILITY TO THAILAND.

4. OUR POLITICAL ASSISTANTS LUCHED MARCH 6 WITH THAI NATION'S AMPHAN HIRANCHOT (ROI ET) WHO SAID THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE UNDER ORDERS TO VOTE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, UNLESS THEY RECEIVED WORD OTHERWISE. HE SAID THAT DURING A PARTY MEETING THE EVENING OF MARCH 5, SOME MEMBERS ARGUED FOR GIVING THE DEMOCRATS A CHANCE TO RUN THE GOVERNMENT AND DEFEATING THEM LATER ON THE BUDGET BILL.

5. WHEN THE LOWER HOUSE OPENED MARCH 6, THE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED THAT 219 MEMBERS WERE PRESENT. DR SANO UNAKUN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD, TOLD US THAT SENI'S CHANCES WERE ENHANCED BECAUSE OF THE MANY ABSENTEES.

6. AT 1800 HOURS LOCAL TIME MARCH 6, THE ASSEMBLY VOTED 149 TO  
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87 IN FAVOR OF CONTINUING THE DEBATE. THERE WERE THUS 236 PARLIAMENTARIANS, PERHAPS 237 COUNTING THE SPEAKER, WHO WERE PRESENT AT THAT TIME. A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE WOULD THUS TAKE PLACE THIS EVENING, OR ON MARCH 7.

7. COMMENT: DEMOCRAT PROSPECTS HAVE SUFFERED THROUGH THE LOSS OF LEFTIST SUPPORT. THE DEMOCRATS HAD HOPED TO PROTECT THEIR GOVERNMENT THROUGH INCREASING POLICY CONCESSIONS TO THE

LEFTISTS. KHUKRIT'S SPEECH, ALTHOUGH MILD, WAS DAMAGING, NEVER-  
THE LESS IT WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE ORGANIZATION TO OVERCOME THE 91  
VOTES THAT THE DEMOCRATS AND SOCIAL AGRARIANS CONTROL. ABSENTEE-  
ISM WILL BE ONE OF THE CRUCIAL FACTORS IN DECIDING THE GOVERN-  
MENT'S FATE. AT THIS STAGE, THAT FATE IS UNCERTAIN.  
KINTNER

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## Message Attributes

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